Impact of Urbanization on Socio-Economic condition of Santhal tribe: A case study of Dumka Nagar Parishad.

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1.BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF THE RESEARCH TOPIC

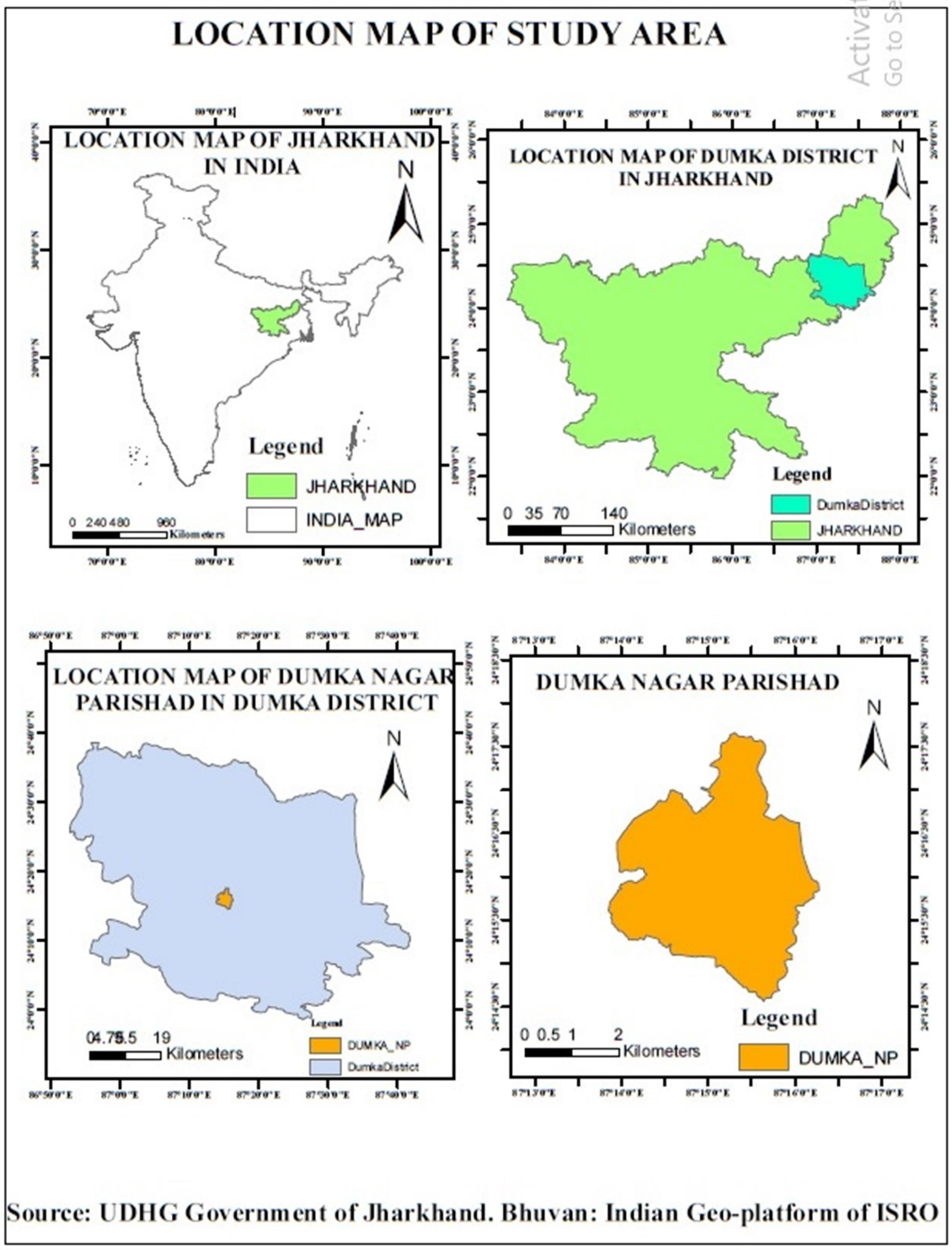
Urbanization is a global phenomenon where explosive demographic transition takes from rural to urban space and the economy shifts from agriculture to industry and services sector. Cities started developing around industrial areas as there was demand for large number of labourers. But gradually there were other factors like administrative or service sector which pulled the process of urbanization. As per the reports of World Bank, 57% of the total population of the world lives in urban space as of 2022 because it offers opportunities for better standard of living. On the other hand, tribals are used to life, where they are loyal to their own kin and culture. Though it may seem discriminatory but the way of life the tribes live are an example of sustainability where resources are utilized on the basis of need.

The word Dumka is derived from a Santhali word which means "*mound*". It was visited by Francis Buchanan in 1810 A.D. for the first time who describe it to be a poor village of 50 houses. Dumka town is the sub-capital of Jharkhand and is situated between hills and river Mor or Mayurakshi in the district of Dumka, Jharkhand, India. It has an average elevation of approximately 156 m from the sea level. It is both the district headquarter and the headquarter of Santhal Pargana sub-division.

Santhal tribe is one of the largest tribal groups of India. Beside Jharkhand, Santhals are also the inhabitants of Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Assam and Chhattisgarh, etc. The word Santhal is derived from two words, *Santha* which means calm and peaceful and *ala* meaning man. They were a nomadic tribe in the past and settled in the Chota Nagpur plateau. Later in the 18^{th} century, they migrated and settled in the Santhal Pargana region and adjacent states.

2.STATE OF THE ART

Historically, a place gets its name from its early inhabitants. Since, Dumka town has developed in and around the a Santhal dominated village with the name which is a Santhal word meaning a *mound*. Hence, it is obvious that it was a village predominantly occupied by the Santhal tribe.


LOCATION MAP OF STUDY AREA
LOCATION MAP OF JHARKHAND IN INDIA
N
Legend
JHARKHAND
INDIA_MAP
0 240 480 960
Kilometers
LOCATION MAP OF DUMKA DISTRICT IN JHARKHAND
N
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DumkaDistrict
JHARKHAND
0 35 70 140
Kilometers
LOCATION MAP OF DUMKA NAGAR PARISHAD IN DUMKA DISTRICT
N
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DUMKA_NP
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Kilometers
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Source: UDHG Government of Jharkhand. Bhuvan: Indian Geo-platform of ISRO

In 1901 the town had overall population of 5326 and was accorded a status of municipality in 1902[1]. It is under the Dumka Nagar Parishad from 2011[2]. The present area under study consists of Dumka Nagar Parishad, prepared by Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Jharkhand which is located between longitude 87 ° 13′ 51 ″ E to 87 ° 16′ 15″ E and latitude 24° 14′ 34″ N to 24 ° 17′ 38″ N and consists of Dumka town with a civic status of Nagar Parishad which is termed as Dumka town by UDHD, Government of Jharkhand.

Decadal Growth Rate of Urban Population of Dumka Town.

Years	Total Population (%-age Increase)	Area Under Municipality [Square Kilometre]	Urban Status
1911	5629 ()		
1921	7396 (31.39)		
1931	9471 (28.06)		
1941	10811 (14.15)		
1951	13582 (25.63)		
1961	18720 (37.83)	4.12	Municipality
1971	23338 (24.67)	6.12	Municipality
1981	31068 (32.12)	6.12	Municipality
1991	38096 (22.62)	6.12	Municipality
2001	44989 (18.09)	6.12	Municipality
2011	47584 (05.76)	6.12	Nagar Parishad

Source: Dumka, Special Survey Reports on Selected Town, Bihar Series 4, Census of India 1971. District Census Hand Book, Jharkhand, Census of India 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011.

Though the area of the town under local government has remained constant at 6.12 square kilometre since 1971, the population of the town grew at decadal growth rate of 26.17 % on an average from year 1901 to 1991. But the rate of growth started declining there-after and it grew at an average decadal growth rate of only 5.73 % from the year 1991 to 2011. On the other hand, the tribal population has been growing at average decadal growth rate of 47.33 % from 1991 to 2011. As per the Census of India report 2011, the total population under the town with civic status was 47584 and the population of the scheduled tribes has been only 5.6% of the total population.

1.Bihar Series 4 Part VI-B Special Survey Reports on Selected Towns: Dumka.

2.District Census Handbook, Dumka, Series -21, Part-XII B, Jharkhand, Census of India, 2011.

Louis Wirth (1938), in his journal "Urbanism as a way of life" tends to covey that as the mobility increases in the urban sphere, it leads to erosion of community and kinship relations though people live together. The individualistic behaviour overpowers the collective approach of the of the rural areas. This individualistic behaviour leads to competition in all the sphere of life where people try to compete with people of the same urban area for better opportunities without considering the fact that it might hurt the intimate relations that might have existed. But the ones immigrating to urban space has characteristic behaviour of maintain intimate relations with the fellow immigrant from the same background and the ones that are left behind.

According to **Amit Kumar Singh (2010)**, the percentage of tribal population living in urban areas of Jharkhand, in 2001, had better facilities to those amenities like electricity, toilets and houses (kutcha, pucca) in comparison to those tribals living in the rural areas with 92 percent and 95 percent of the rural tribal population not availing the facilities of electricity and toilets and those of pucca houses, respectively. It also reveals that those districts which were least urbanised had less disparities between Scheduled Tribes and other communities in the same area where as there was a prominent gap which were highly urbanised.

As per **Dr. Purobi Sharma (2013),** the urban space has a presence of distinctive culture which represents the community in majority. The process of urbanization leads to three aspects of change by transforming the social environment, causing disparity of resources and dualistic nature of the urban people in term of adjustment and insecurity. These aspects, acts as a place of both inclusion and exclusion. The aboriginals of the urban space are motivated to consolidate their group identity and search for survival strategies due to the marginalization effect they feel for themselves.

The report of the **High-Level Committee on Socio-economic Health and Educational Status of Tribal Communities of India** under the chairmanship of **Virginius Xaxa (2014)**, talks about the illegal ways induced for alienating the tribes from their land which involves the participation of revenue functionaries and officials by permitting the process of land alienation through wrong interpretation of land laws, etc. The state also involves in the process of land alienation in the name of development by amending the laws meant for protecting the tribal lands.

According to the, **United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III Policy Papers: Policy Paper 2 Socio-Cultural Urban Framework (2016),** inequality remains an enduring challenge for towns and cities in the

twenty-first century. The benefits of urbanization are unequally shared and, in many contexts, a substantial proportion of urban dwellers are not able to access them. Those particularly affected are ethnic minorities, lower income communities, refugees and migrants. The main challenge for twenty-first century cities is the equitable provision of urban (economic and social) services such as transport, energy, water and sanitation, housing, and solid waste management[1].

United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III Policy Papers: Policy Paper 2 Socio-Cultural Urban Framework (2016) found that the process of recent urban development has been under the process of globalization and homogenization, threatening plethora of diverse tangible and intangible heritage in many cities around the world. Cultural diversity, including a range of institutions, practices, world views,

people, forms, experiences, languages and knowledge systems, is being eroded or deliberately erased as communities are assumed to be homogeneous and monolithic.

As per **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, (2016). "*Culture: Urban Future: Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development.*"**, culture is key to what makes cities attractive, creative and sustainable. History shows that culture is at the heart of urban development, evidenced through cultural landmarks, heritage and traditions. Without culture, cities as vibrant life-spaces do not exist; they are merely concrete and steel constructions, prone to social degradation and fracture. It is culture that makes the difference. How can culture be integrated into urban strategies to ensure their sustainability?

Aashish Khakha (2019), The article talks about the autonomous and interdependent governance system which is between Shillong Municipality and the traditional local head *Syiem* of *Mylliem,* which are ancient traditional post of the tribes of Meghalaya. Even after all this interdependence system, there is great divide between the aspirations of the state and the people which demands for a coherence of aspirations of the state and cultural norms of the people.

According to **Mehmet TAN and Muhammet Firat (2022)**, there are conflicts between the social structure of city and the tribes as urban administrative system has detrimental effect on the traditional governance authority. Tribal structure shows a kind of spirit of solidarity on the basis of blood and kinship ties where the town shows a feature of civil inattention

(Goffman, 2015), where there is low degree of integration and high degree of isolation which leads to ghettoization due to discriminating urban factors.

1. United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III Policy Papers: Policy Paper 2 Socio-Cultural Urban Framework (2016).

3.PROBLEMS TO BE INVESTIGATED

There are several indicators of urban space which is very different from the tribal community life in terms of economy, administration, socio-cultural and political aspects. These difference lead to conflict in the way of life of two different communities. There has been many problems arising out of the process of urbanization of Dumka town which are:

1. How does the process of unchecked urban sprawling in the process of urbanization affect the traditional tribal economy of Santhal tribe in Dumka Nagar Parishad?
2. How does the process of socio-economic integration with urban space affect the social-economic life of Santhal tribe in the Dumka Nagar Parishad?
3. How does the disparity of access to basic amenities to the Santhal tribal population in the Dumka Nagar Parishad differ from the rest of the population?
4. How does the Santhal tribe illegally lose hold of their tribal lands despite the state policies and laws against it?

4.OBJECTIVE & MOTIVATION

Dumka district is the second capital of the Jharkhand state. This title has led to, Dumka town around which the district is situated being designated as an administrative hub which is somehow leading to the sudden urban sprawl which is evident from the sudden price hike of the landholdings and preparation of a policy framework, "***Master Plan for Dumka***" by the Urban Development & Housing Department, Government of Jharkhand. Historically, since the town originated around a tribal space, there would definitely be a need for scale of land acquisition for the town being able to support itself as a functionary town. The process involved would definitely affect the tribal space in many ways like land acquisition for construction of residential or commercial space. This develops an urge to study the impact of urbanization on the tribal space.

- To study the impact of urban sprawl on the indigenous economy of Santhal tribe in Dumka Nagar Parishad.

- To investigate the impact of urbanism on socio-economic life of indigenous Santhal tribe of Dumka Nagar Parishad.
- To evaluate the disparity of access to basic amenities by the Santhal tribe in the proposed study area of urban sprawl.
- To study the policies and legalities for the Santhal tribal area: - Santhal Parganas Tenancy Act, 1949, Constitution of India, PESA Act, etc.

5.RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

1. The urban sprawl created by the process of rapid urbanization disrupts the indigenous economy of Santhal tribe in the urban area.

2. Indigenous Santhal tribe in the urban area are socio-economically vulnerable to urban way of life.

3. Santhal tribe suffer from the inequality of access to basic amenities provided by the urban space.

4. The illegal loss of land by Santhal tribe in the urban area indicates the presence of loopholes in the policies and laws enacted by the state.

6.RESEARCH DESIGN & METHODOLOGY

Dumka district being the second capital of Jharkhand and the administrative hub of Santhal Pargana has led to rapid urbanization around the administrative Dumka town. The process of development of the town requires a large tract of land for various which needs to be acquired from the original inhabitants. These process of land acquisition for the process of urban development could impact the socio-economic life of indigenous inhabitants.

To start the process of research, the basic required information like total acquired land, total developmental projects, etc, of all the wards of Dumka town developed by Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Jharkhand will be acquired from Land Acquisition Office, Dumka Nagar Parishad, UDHD Government of Jharkhand, etc.

Since, the study would be based particular on tribal community, i.e. Santhal tribe, of the study area. The socio-economic data would be collected from and about the Santhal tribe. The socio-economic data of the general population would be acquired from different census reports and government documents. For comparative study of two study area, Dumka town has been divided into 22 wards which has been further divided into 8995 households. The method of sampling that will be used is purposive sampling which deals with the data required from sample of specific characteristic group or population. The unit of sample would

be a respondent that would be head of the household from the sample of population belonging to Santhal tribe from each ward of the study area with ancestral land inside Dumka Nagar Parishad.

A. TENTATIVE CHAPTERS

Introduction.

1. **Geographical & Historical Background of Dumka Town.**
2. **Concept of Urbanism & Tribal way of life: The Santhal Tribe.**
3. **Socio-Economic status of Santhal Tribe of Dumka Nagar Parishad.**
4. **Urban Sprawl and Santhal Tribal Economy of Dumka Nagar Parishad.**
5. **Urbanism and Socio-economic status of Santhal Tribal Life in Dumka Nagar Parishad.**
6. **Access of Basic Amenities: Santhal Tribes of Dumka Nagar Parishad.**
7. **Public and Private Initiatives: The Loopholes.**
8. **Planning Strategy for Sustainable Santhal Tribe Development in Urban Area.**

Conclusion.

References.

Bibliography.

Appendices.

7.SOURCES OF DATA AND TOOLS FOR COLLECTION OF DATA

The data will be collected from two sources for the purpose of analysis.

I. Primary Data

From Sample of Urban Tribes

First, the data will be collected from the source of study as primary data which would include the tribals in the area of study which would be divided according to the wards of the urban region and villages that will come under the delimited area of Master Plan of Dumka. In depth interviews would be conducted with the respondents who would mostly be the head of the house from the sample of tribal households who are directly affected by the process of urban development. The interviews would be in the form of questionaries as well as checklists on socio-economic aspects of the tribes. It would also deal with checklists

consisting of details about the amenities available and absent along with economic assets. This data would help in both validating the secondary data as well as analysis of the both.

Sample Size: At least 10 Santhal tribe households from each ward and each village would be surveyed for the first-hand information or primary data from Dumka Nagar Parishad. All together there will be around 200 to 220 households for survey from Dumka Nagar Parishad. Most of the tribal households will specifically be selected on the basis of them being the indigenous tribe of that urban area using purposive random sampling method. Lack of households belonging to Santhal tribe with ancestral land in any wards or villages will be compensated by acquiring the same number of extra households from any ward with more than 10 Santhal tribe households.

II. Secondary Data

Secondly, the data available to the public in the form of government documents as secondary data. For example, from District Land Acquisition Office, Jharkhand, Dumka Gazetteer, Urban Development and Housing Department, Dumka District Census Handbook, Census of India, National Sample Survey Organisation, Ministry of Tribal Development, Etc.

From Urban Development Authorities

Another set of primary data will be collected from the Urban Development Authorities who are responsible for the implantation process of the Master Plan of Dumka Town. The questions will be related to the size of the land that will be acquired especially from the tribal people, the number of tribal family or household that will be affected, their socio-economic profile, the laws that are taken into consideration and how are the laws, being abided, for the land? Population statistics of the displaced tribals, etc.

From Municipal Authorities: Population statistics related to the Santhal tribe and the facilities that are being provided in the urban space of the study area like housing, electricity, drainage, water, ration card and job cards, etc will be collected from municipal office of Dumka Nagar Parishad.

From Tribal Activists/ NGO Leaders

The key issues related to land alienation due to urbanisation against state and non-state actors. The reports and data made by them or acquired by them during the process of fight gainst unfair means of urbanization.

Tools

Data collection is the process of collecting and analysing information on relevant variables in a predetermined, methodical way so that one can respond to specific research questions, test hypotheses, and assess the results. The tools or devices used to gather data, such as a paper questionnaire or a system for computer-assisted interviews. The tools that would be used to collect and save data include

1) Questionnaire.
2) Checklists.
3) Microsoft Word & Excel.
4) GIS + Remote Sensing + Google Earth App + Stata
5) Cameras

8.ANALYSIS OF DATA

The process of deducing data for its interpretation to get sensible insights which would theorise a hypothesis is the core of research process. So, after the collection of data for desired variables, it would be arranged as per the category it suits.

Correlative Survey: After the arrangement, it will be run through certain statistical techniques like correlation and regression to find out the degree of influence and causation on one or more indicators on others, etc. It will also be put to test of different kinds like t-test, etc, for validating the significance of the hypothesis proposed if the result is positive to the proposed hypothesis.

Descriptive-Comparative Analysis: There are other statistical tools like Gini Co-efficient which helps to analyse the socio-economic inequalities among the tribes and with the non-tribes in the process of urbanization. Then, the data would be put through statistical tools like correlation, regression, variance etc under inferential statistics or measure of frequency, central tendency, dispersion or variation under descriptive statistics for examining the data. The statistical result would thus be put to tests like t-test or chi-square test, ANOVA etc which would explain the result and enrich the pre-existing knowledge.

Ogive-Analysis: This method of analysis will be used to find the disparity of socio-economic aspects of the tribes and general population within Dumka town and its periphery inside Dumka Master Plan.

Socio-economic vulnerability Index: Various multilevel multifactor vulnerability indices will be used to analyse the gap in socio-economic growth or status of tribal life of Santhal tribe in the study area.

9.SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The research would be of great significance in understanding the tribal way of life and determine different ways and processes of integration of tribal community into the mainstream urban community while keeping the unique and individual characteristic identity intact. It would be important for the government, both the State and the Centre, to devise policies and laws for the tribals of Dumka region and its surrounding area while keeping in mind the intricacies of tribals way of life. It would thereby lead to development of both the town and the tribals via urbanization process without touching or infringing upon the tribal way of life. It would also be significant for the tribals of the Dumka region as it would help them understand the pros and cons of urbanization around them and try to accommodate themselves in the urban setting while conserving their own unique characteristic features. The study would further be significant for fellow future researchers while dealing with their own research work related to the topic.

10. RELEVANCE TO THE PRESENT-DAY PROBLEM

The study would have immense relevance in terms of enquiring and understanding the problems related to both the tribal way of life and urban way of life. There are several problems which would be and is faced by the tribals in and around Dumka town due to the process of urbanization without checking its impact on the life of the tribal communities living in the area. The process of urbanization has multi-sphere impact on tribal communities in terms of socio-economic, political, administrative and cultural aspects. These impacts are both positive and negative. The study would thus help the Dumka town in developing itself in an inclusive way where no one is left behind in any sphere of development yet maintaining the ethos of the tribal community there at peace. It might also be helpful in solving problems of land acquisition and inclusiveness for the process of urbanization. The governance system would be better handled when the socio-cultural and economical intricacies of the tribes are taken into account while preparing any developmental projects around the tribal space. It would also be helpful for both the urban societies and the tribes in process of socio-cultural and politico-administrative assimilation.

11. CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXISTING KNOWLEDGE

The proposed study would contribute immensely to the existing knowledge in the form of demographic and socio-economic as well as cultural data which will serve as a reference for the further case studies for the same area as well as for the other areas of study. It would also be helpful in identifying the desired policy framework for sustainable urbanization as per specific tribe of any specific urban areas as each urban space has its own unique characteristics features which might present specific problems. Since there are many research project done on the basis of scheduled tribe as a single unit, this research would contribute to the same presenting specific problems of the specific tribe.

12. FURURE WORK

There will always be a huge scope for future work on the same topic via several parameters or indicators showing different cause and effect to the tribes. The study may include the role of the tribes in developing the urban space in terms of: -

1. Administrative System: How can governance system be revised in order to better build the inclusive cities.
2. Sustainability: How to better incorporate tribal way of conserving the resources.
3. The challenges faced by tribes in the process of adapting to urban way of life.
4. Study of tribal economic system for sustaining urban economy.

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